

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION

The Bill Reported to the Senate by the Committee.

LANDS OPENED FOR SETTLEMENT.

Changes Made Concerning the Leasing of Lands by Indians—Indian Freedmen to Be Paid Claims.

Washington, February 12.—Senator Petterson, from the committee on appropriations, reported the Indian appropriation bill to the senate. As reported, the bill carries an amendment to the provision for the allotment of lands in the Indian Territory and for displacing the local Indian courts by a system of Federal judiciary, which was sent out yesterday by the Associated Press. Another amendment throws open the lands to settlement of the Unimungah reservation in Utah. A provision is also inserted in regard to the support of Indian schools, giving the secretary of the interior authority to make contracts with contract schools, apportioning the amount paid thus among the various religious denominations. At these contracts no more than lands only for non-sectarian schools can be secured. The provision is the same as the present law, except that the percentage is reduced from 50 to 40 per cent.

Among other amendments in the legislative features of the bill are the following: Giving competent Indians the preference in the employment of farmers at Indian agencies; striking out the provision allowing the Quapaw Indians to lease the land in Indian territory and inserting provision allowing the Sisseton and Wahpeton Indians the right to make leases; requiring the commissioner of Indian affairs to employ Indian girls as assistant matrons and Indian girls as assistant farmers, wherever practicable; to set aside lands for the Indians to lease the lands allotted to them; providing for a commission to treat with the Rosebud and Lower Brule Indians for the employment of Indian labor; providing for a commissioner to superintend the sale of Indian lands; conferring jurisdiction upon the court of claims in the Cherokee old claims.

As reported the bill shows an increase of \$247,829 over the amount appropriated by the house bill, making a total of \$7,399,496. The principal item of this increase is \$141,500 for the lease of the lands of the Chickasaw Nation.

Forty thousand dollars is provided for extension on Indian reservations, instead of \$9,000, as in the house bill.

Union Pacific Land Patent.

Washington, February 12.—Secretary Tammis today issued an order restoring to the Union Pacific lands pending patent the status they occupied under the order of secretary Smith last June, directing the lands of the road to be patented where shown to have been sold to bona fide purchasers, and fixing the affidavits of two persons, familiar with the facts as sufficient to show bona fide purchases, as well as of the company's officials; but the road complained that this was an injustice in view of deaths and other reasons. The order then applies only to the Union Pacific lands following the address of the commissioner of the general land office:

The reorganization committee of the territory holders of the Union Pacific Railway have petitioned the interior department with the government whereby said government is guaranteed to receive at least \$15,704,000 for its claims against said company at a foreclosure sale, which the territory holders have ordered. The attorneys for said first mortgage bondholders have united in asking the court to order, and said representatives having desisted \$4,500,000 with the United States treasury in this city to insure the fulfillment of said agreement, now, therefore, my orders of December 26, 1896, and January 2, 1897, governing the status of lands to be patented to the Union Pacific Railway company are hereby modified.

From and after date you will list to me for patenting such lands within the limits of the grants flowing to the Union Pacific Railroad company and may have sold to bona fide purchasers. In determining whether such lands may have been sold to bona fide purchasers, you will follow the instructions in departmental letter of my secretary dated January 1, 1897, and in this order shall be construed as modifying any departmental letters of December 6, 1896, and January 2, 1897, so far as said letters relate to lands within the limits of the grant of the Central Pacific railroad.

To Pay Cherokee Freedmen.

Washington, February 12.—The vexed question of the Cherokee freedmen payment, which has long been a source of trouble to the government, has been settled at last and Special Agent Dickson and expert assistant of the interior department are now on their way to make the payment. The aggregate amount is \$550,000, which is due on the proceeds of the sale of the Cherokee Strip. There are 4551 of freedmen, or negroes. The action is the outcome of a judicial decision that they are entitled to an equal per capita share with the Indians. The payments will begin at Hayden, I. T., and are the final payments in account of the Cherokee Strip.

Accents to Visit New Orleans.

Washington, February 12.—The United States navy will be represented at Mardi Gras at New Orleans by the Maine and Texas, Secretary Herbert having reached his decision after advising with Admiral Sigsbee. The Maine is now with Admiral Sigsbee's squadron off Charleston and the Texas is on her way from New York to New Orleans. They will be at New Orleans by the 24 of March. The Texas draws about twenty-four feet of water and the Maine about a foot less. The Montgomery will be at Mobile on the same day to add by her presence to the Mardi Gras there.

NEW YORK.—The American Missionary Association has issued an appeal to Congregational churches, especially throughout New England, to observe tomorrow as a memorial Sunday of "The Times of Abraham Lincoln."

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A dark, textured vertical bar, possibly a book cover or endpaper, with a grainy, wood-like appearance. The texture is composed of fine, vertical lines and subtle variations in tone, ranging from deep black to a dark charcoal grey. The overall effect is one of a rough, organic surface.